

## **Melinda Hanlon – Supreme Auto Brampton**

In her grade 10 year at Bramalea Secondary School, Melinda Hanlon decided to give transportation technology class a try. The only female in her class I, a class of boys (“the other girl dropped out”), Melinda found working on cars was something she could do well and enjoy. She earned another credit in transportation technology in grade 11 and two more credits in grade 12. Auto mechanic seemed like a possible career path, and her co-op teacher convinced her that the best way to know for sure was to get some real life, on-the-job experience through a co-operative education placement.



So after graduating from Bramalea, Melinda returned to school this past fall and accepted a placement at Supreme Auto in Brampton. Her supervisor at work, Ken O’Driscoll, was very impressed with her from the start. “She’s the best co-op student we have ever had here,” he said. “She learns quickly, gets along well with others in the shop, and has a positive attitude. We’re very pleased to have her.”

Things have gone so well that Melinda was able to register as an apprentice under the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and plans to continue in a paid apprenticeship when her co-op placement comes to an end. “I enjoy what I do and it feels right for me,” she said. “Co-op is a great way to try out a career – you never know until you try.”